relations with Chungking, could not be expected to give the latter much help in the form of munitions Distances for transport across Sinkiang were great and, even had they been shorter, Russia had need for all the war supplies which she could muster and, in addition, would not risk antagonizing Japan to the point of hostilities.

RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS! RENEWED JAPANESE AGGRESSION! THE ENTRANCE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE NETHERLANDS INTO THE FAR EASTERN STRUGGLE, DECEMBER, 1941, AND AFTER

On December 7, 1941 (December 8, by Chinese time), b> dramatic and sudden Japanese moves, the Sino-Japanese conflict was broadened and became a more integral part of the vast world struggle then in progress. The British Empire, the Netherlands, and the United States became involved in war with Japan and, therefore, were actively on the side of China. This brought to the assistance of China the resources of these powers, in the aggregate enormous, and boded ill for Japan.

The events of December 7-8, 1941, while bursting like a bomb upon a startled world, were a climax, not altogether illogical, of a long development. The League of Nations and the United States had been critical of Japan's adventure in China since its inception in September, 1931. Indeed, American opposition to Japan's advance at the expense of China dated from not long after the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. Commencing with the momentous Hay note of 1899, the Open Door in China had increasingly become one of the major concerns of the foreign policy of the United States. Since its victory over

Russia in 190S Japan had been the chief and growing threat to the realization of that policy. By various means, some of which have been noted in the preceding pages of this chapter, the United States had endeavored to check Japan. Among these were the proposed neutralization of the Manchurian railways (1909), financial consortiums, criticism of the Twenty-one Demands, the blocking soon after the end of the World War of 1914-1918 of Japan's attempts to seize Eastern Siberia and the Chinese Eastern Railway, and the Washington Conference with its Nine Power Treaty and the